

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 04843 131627Z
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5203

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 04843

E.O.11652:N/A
TAS: CASC CI (GARRETT, CHARLES BENNETT)
SUBJ: W/W PROTECTION OF U.S. PRIVATE VESSEL

REF/ SANTIAGO 4236 AND PREVIOUS

1. THE EMBASSY WAS ADVISED BY THE MARITIME GOVERNOR OF VALPARAISO, JORGE MANRIQUEZ, THAT THE YACHT GOOD SHIP GRACE IS NOW IN VALPARAISO HARBOR AFTER HAVING BEEN TOWED BY A CHILEAN NAVY VESSEL FROM ARICA. THE YACHT REMAINS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE CHILEAN NAVY BUT AN ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSFER WILL TAKE PLACE NEXT WEEK. MANRIQUEZ STATED THAT THE VESSEL WILL REMAIN UNDER HIS CONTROL UNTIL OUTSTANDING DEPTS OWED TO LAN CHILE BY GARRETT FOR HIS EVACUATION FROM EASTER ISLAND ARE PAID.

2. WE WERE ADVISED BY JUAN CHAVEZ, GARRETT'S AGENT IN VALPARAISO, THAT HE HAS PAID \$500 OF THE \$2500 TOTAL OWED TO LAN CHILE. CHAVEZ HAS RECEIVED A POWER OF ATTORNEY FROM GARRETT GRANTING HIM AUTHORITY TO SELL THE YACHT BUT CHILEAN MARITIME OFFICIALS STATED THAT THEY CANNOT RECOGNIZE THE POWER OF ATTORNEY UNLESS IT IS AUTHENTICATED AT A CHILEAN CONSULATE IN THE U.S. AND THE MFA HERE. CHAVEZ APPARENTLY INFORMED GARRETT OF THIS PROCEDURE BUT GARRETT REPLIED THAT HE IS UNABLE TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL IN ORDER TO EXECUTE THE POWER OF ATTORNEY.

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3. PRESUMABLY, ONCE THE LAN CHILE DEBT IS CANCELLED AND CHAVEZ OBTAINS AN ACCEPTABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY, THE VESSEL WOULD BE RELEASED TO CHAVEZ. THE CONSULATE WAS ADVISED BY JORGE MANRIQUEZ THAT THE CHILEAN NAVY MAY BE SUBMITTING A CLAIM AMOUNTING TO SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS (EXACT AMOUNT UNSPECIFIED) FOR TOWING FEES FROM ARICA TO VALPARAISO. WE HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY INFORMED

THAT THE ENTIRE GOOD SHIP GRACE INCIDENT WAS TO
BE CONSIDERED A RESCUE OPERATION WITH NO CLAIMS CONTEMPLATED.

4. THE ODYSSEY OF THE GOOD SHIP GRACE CONTINUES TO
RECEIVE REGULAR PRESS PLAY. THE CHARGES AGAINST THE
FIVE CHILEANS WHO WERE ABOARD AS THE YACHT WAS MYSTRIOUSLY
BLOWN HALFWAY ACROSS THE PACIFIC HAVE BEEN DROPPED.

5. CHARLES GARRETT SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT THE POWER
OF ATTORNEY GRANTED TO CHAVEZ IS UNACCEPTABLE TO CHILEAN
AUTHORITIES AND THAT WE CONTINUE TO ADVISE RAPID
SETTLEMENT OF THE ENTIRE MATTER.
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